THE COURTS.

UNITED STATES CIRCUIT COURT.

an importation of de laines, amounting to between 280,000 and \$50,000. The case comes up now for the mediatine, on questions of law raised by counsel, the facts having been determined on a previous trail. The facts and the ground of action have been already reported. Case still on.

UNITED STATES COMMISSIONER'S COURT.

Charge of Levying Black Mail.

B. Freeman, an Inspector of Internal Revenue,
mes Miller, who have been on several occasions
ed on the charge of levying black mail, to the

Alleged Frauds in the Tobacco Trade.

Before Commissioner Osborn.
case of Ross & Co., tobacconists, of Fulton street,
have been charged with rendering false and fraudu-

ck pay. The statute allows \$10, and the allesion or back pay. The statute allows \$10, and the alle-gation against the defendant is that he charged more than this sum. The charge is rather a novel one, and a case of this kind has not for a long time, if at all, occu-pied the attention of the commissioner. The penalty is rather severe, the statute imposing a time of \$300, or imprisonment with hard labor for two years, or both. The defendant has been held to ball in the sum of \$500, and his examination will take place to day.

Before Judge Shipman. Henry C. Haff and Eleven Others vs. the Yacht Vesta. — he Vesta is one of the celebrated Yankee yachts that cently astonished our European neighbors by racing west mank while on her trial trip, the owner accused them of negligence, discharged them, and hired another trew in their stead. The libellants, not seeing the matter in the same light, libelled the vessel through Mr. anktree, their counsel, and claim wages and board for he voyage as compensation for their alleged unlawful ischarge. The case was called on for trial yesterday sorning, but as ex-Judge Beebe, counsel for the owner, tated that one of their most important witnesses was riously ill, and offered to pay the libellants' expenses, the Court adjourned the trial until Tuesday next, at even o'clock.

SUPREME COURT-CHAMBERS.

An Indignation Meeting Among Lawyers.
In the Supreme Court, Chambers yesterday, there was a rather unusual occurrence. The Court some time ago fixed twelve o'clock as the time for calling the calendar to be heard before that hour, and generally it is all disposed of during that time, and the call of the calendar remmenced very soon after, if not exactly at noon. Buring the present month, however, the accumulations of ex paris business have been allowed to trench quite seriously on the time set apart for the motion business. The delay has been aggravated by a somewhat lengthy recess, the effect being that at the beginning of the week less than eighty motions had been called. The room is a small room, and the number of motions which may be reached packs it at twelve o'clock to its utmost capacity, a fact not contributing to the good feeling or patence of the lawyers detained there.

Yesterday the court, after disposing of its ex parismotions, took a somewhat lenathy recess, which was not received with the usual patience of the bar. A great deal of discussion arose, and at about twenty minutes past one Mr. Cram proposed that those present, about one hundred and twenty, should resolve themselves into a meeting, with ex-Judge Edmonds in the chair, and take action in the matter.

Judge Edmonds shole—at that it was not necessary. A simple resolution to depart from the court until Wednerday at twelve M. would be enough. The empty room would sufficiently express their opinion in the inetier.

The proposal was received with acclamation and those present at once commenced crowding out of the narrow door. At this moment Judge Leonard came in from the private room, and those who had left, finding that some were staying behind, returned.

Judge Edmonds stated to the court that the tar had always supposed that the rule was that after twelve o'clock the time was to be devoted to the calendar motions; that over a hund-ed pre ent had now been waiting upwards of an hour and a half, at personal inconvenience, losing time most valuable to term, through their reliance on this rate, and wished for the couvenience of the bar that some rule should be adopted.

Judge Leonard did not so understand the rule. He would make inquiries as

Promissory Notes. The North River Bank of Hoboken-Gift Enterprises.

dollar, &c., and the defendant's evidence was very con-fused.

The Court charged the jury that the notes, if given to Chadwick upon valuable consideration, were good in the hands of the piaintiff, but if given merely to procure a usurious loan upon, they were void.

The jury found for the defendant.

COURT OF COMMON PLEAS.

Action to Recover Money from the Marine Bank Deposited as a Margin on Gold Trans-

Before Judge Cardozo and a Jory.

William Poppe vs. The Marine Bank.—This is an action to recover a "margin" on a gold transaction which was held by the Marine Bank. The plaintiff effected a loan of gold in September, 1863, of defendants amounting to \$5,000, and deposited as collateral security at that time \$7,500 in greenbacks. He kept up the margin by depositing various sums of money at different times, until in September, 1864, the whole amount deposited was \$10,000. In September, 1864, plaintiff tendered to the casher of the bank \$5,000 in gold, who refused to take it. Plaintiff afterwards wrote a letter to the President of the bank mating that he would tender the gold in return for the loan. Plaintiff testified that the Vice President of the bank, in a conversation, offered to settle with him for \$500. This was objected to. Upon cross-examination plaintiff said he did not give the identical "greenbacks," but gave his check for \$7,500, payable to the President, Mr. Fish. There was a motion for a non-mit at the close of the prosecution, on the pleadings, which was denied.

The defence set up was, that the transaction was undividually with the President, Mr. Fish, who testified that he bought the gold as his own, and that he had sold it. Mr. Bradiey, counsel for the bank, renewed the motion for a non-mit, on the inarther ground that there was mothing to go to the jury; that the testimony on the part of the defendant was that it was an individual transaction, the checks being put in evidence, and that Mr. Fish, as President, knew mothing of the tender.

The Judge said that he thought it was a question to go to the jury as to whether the transaction was with the bank or with Mr. Fish individually; also whether there was a tender of the gold.

The case was then summed up by the counsel, and the charge to the jury reserved until this morning.

Action for Alleged False Imprisonment.

Before Judge Alker and a Jury.

John Healey vs. Hiram Cranston.—This was an action to recover \$500 for alleged false imprisonment. Plaintiff had been in the employment of Mr. Cranston, of the New York Hotel. He alleges that in the month of July mat he was arrested on a charge preferred against him by Mr. Cranston of having entered the apartment of one of the guests and stolen therefrom valuable proparty; that the charge, after having been investigated by

COURT OF OYER AND TERMINED.

Trial for Murder—The Law of Marriage.

Before Judge Ingraham and a Jury.

Charles Wreigler was yesterday put on his trial, before
Mr. Justice Ingraham and a jury, for the murder of
Prancis Bansa at No. 236 East Houston street, on Friday,

November 9, 1866.

The prisoner is a man of middle size. He was dressed in the garb of a workman and his features, though rough, do not indicate ferocity or desperation of char-

Bedford, Jr., Assistant District Attorney, and Mr. Wil-liam F. Kintzing, Jr., with A. S. Cohen, defended the

liam F. Kintzing, Jr., with A. S. Cohen, defended the prisoner.

A considerable time was spent in empanelling a jury. Prisoner's counsel challenged several jurous peremptorily. One was excused on the ground that he did not wish to serve on a case of this kind, as he objected altogether to capital punishment.

OFENING STATEMENT FOR THE PROSECUTION.

Mr. Gunning S. Bedford, Jr., Assistant District Attorney, in opening the case in behalf of the people, addressed the jury as follows:—

May it please the Court—Gentlemen of the jury, George Wreigler, the prisoner at the bar, stands induced for the crime of murder, being charged with having wilfully and with malice aforethought stabbed his victim, Francis Bansa, in three different places—in the forehead, in the left arm and in the breast. These stab wounds were inflicted on the evening of Friday, November 9, about a quarter before six o'clock, at 235 East Houston street, in this city. The unfortunate deceased died early the following morning from the effects of these wounds. The details of this cruel murder are very few, but they will disclose a thirst for human blood almost without a parallel in the records of this court. We will prove to you, gentlemen, that on the Sunday previous to the murder—a period, remember, of six full days—the prisoner called at 235 East Houston street, on one of the witnesses, Catharine Fuller, whose testimony will be presented to you on the stand; and while she was sitting at a table with Bansa, the deceased, the prisoner deliberately remarked, "I will murder both of you yet," and immediately left the room. Nothing was seen of the prisoner until the following Friday afternoon, when, knife in hand, he enters the identical room at 235 East Houston street, where he had six days previously given warning of his purpose; he finds Bansa, the deceased, and Catharine Fuller in the back. Fortunately, however, for the ends of justice, the latter wound was not fatal, and the witness, Catharine Fuller, is here to day to tell you in simple language the

would have been satisfied had I also killed the woman."
Language like this, gentlemen, needs no comment; it
carries its own interpretation, and it is for you to give
it its true import. It cannot be necessary for me to say
more. I have presented you with the prominent facts
of this case. You will hear the details from
the witnesses themselves; and it will be for you
to determine from the evidence the guilt or the
innocence of the prisoner. Do your duty, gentlemen,
and isave the rest to God! As jurors you have a sacred
office to perform; and while you should guard as you
would the apple of your eye the rights of the commonwealth, you are not to forget that the prisoner has, in
law, his rights also. Judge him truly by the evidence,
without fear or favor, and you will then have effectually,
under the selemnity of your oaths, carried out your high
mission as jurors.

TR-TEMONY OF THE WINNESSER.

under the solemnity of your oaths, carried out your high mission as jurors.

Catharine Fuller was called as the first witness for the prosecution, and having taken the stand, tounsel for the prisoner objected to her testimony being received. She was the wite of the prisoner, and, therefore, incompetent as a witness against him.

Mr. Bedford said they should see how that was.

The Court directed counsel for the prisoner to examine the witness as to the relationship that had existed between henelf and Wreigler.

Catharine Fuller was then examined by counsel for the prisoner as follows:—I have known George Wreigler; I have lived with him four years and a half; I have lived with him so his wife; be has introduced me to his friends as his wife; I have introduced him to my friends as my husband; I have had two children; he is the father of the children; when I went to live with him it was my intendent on the with him as his wife.

Mr. Bedford—Were you ever married to George Wreigler, the party now on trial?

Objected to, Object on disallowed.

Question repeated. Witness—I was never married to him.

Q. Then you were his mistress? A. We were to live together as man and wife.

To the Court—The understanding was when I went to live with him that we should live together as man and wife forever.

Mr. Bedford did not think matrimony was sufficiently made out so as to disqualify the witness from testifying. She left the prisoner, whom she had lived with as mistress, and lived with another man, as the evidence would show.

The Court said that if they agreed to live together as man and wife it would not be necessary, for any requirement of the law, to show that they were married by a priest, a minister or magistrate. The Court, however, reserved this question for the present, and told Mr. Bedford frankly confessed that he would not be able to prove the stabbing without the cyticuce of Catharine Fuller, who had told him she was nothing but Wreigter's mistress.

Wreigler said nothing; I did not see Bansa after he was dead.

Cross-examined—I found Bansa on the top of Wreigler; I took them apart, and then I saw the blood on Bansa; I cannot recollect that Wreigler said to Pansa.

"For God's sake let me up:" I do not remember that Wreigler cried; when I went up to the station bouse I heard Wreigler say something about Bansa taking his wife away from him; the knife produced is like the one I saw in the prisoner's hand.

To Mr. Bedford—Whan he went to the station house the prisoner said he lived with the woman so long that he had had three children by her; that she had taken Bansa again, and that that was the reason of the "muss;" that it had made him mad, and that he had had a failing out with her.

To Mr. Kintzing—I am sure he said she had taken Bansa again.

To Mr. Kintzing—I am sure he said she had taken Banra again.
(The witness, at the request of the Court, stated in German what Wreigler said.)
A German gentleman on the jury said what the witness had stated in English was the same as what he had just mentioned in German.
Another German juror said it was not the same, but very nearly the same.
The Judge ordered the regular German interpreter to be sent for. In the incantime a short recess was taken by the Court, and when the trial was resumed—
Coursel for the prisoner said that as the Court had ruled that the woman Fuller was not a competent witness, and in order not to take up the time of the court unnecessarily, he would, if the District Attorney consented, put in a plea of guilty of manslaughter in the third degree.

Mr. Bedford observed that as his Honor's ruling had.

Before Judge Russel.

The calendar of this court was very large yesterday, and the City Judge disposed of seventeen cases in a very short time. Assistant District Attorney Hutchings conducted the prosecution.

CONVICTION OF A MOTORIOUS HOTEL THISP.

George Clarke was tried and convicted of stealing an overcoat valued at \$100 from the hall of the Brevoort House, on the 5th of January. James Lockwood, the head waiter, saw the prisoner take the coat, which belenged to Mr. R. B. Yale. Clarks escaped at the time, but was arrested three weeks afterwards by a detective to whom an accurate description was given the day after the larceay, The Judge in passing sentence, said Clarke

tion of being a inite, was south to the plant of three years.

Benry Pearsall pleaded guilty to stealing a barrel of sugar worth \$57, on the 12th of January, from the store of John Lewis, 443 East Houston street. Pearsall is an old State Prison bird, but as he saved the court the trouble of a trial, the Judge said he would deduct a year from the sentence, which was four years' imprisonment in the State Prison.

The prisoners were remanded for sentence.

Before Justices Dowling and Kelly. A heavy calendar was presented for trial yesterday in this court; it contained forty-five separate charges, of which nineteen were for petit larceny, fifteen assault and battery, four violations of the Excise law, one carry-

and battery, four violations of the Excise law, one carrying a slung shot, one picking pockets, one creeity to animals, one engaged in the lottery business, and three suspended from last sitting.

HELDSTERM SYSTEM.

Henry A. Van Dolsen, cierk in the office of the managers of the lottery said to be for the benefit of the "Home for Soidiers" Orphans," lately held at Cooper Institute, was presented on the charge of infringing the State laws against lotteries. The prosecutor, an old man from Snug Harbor, said he bought several tickets, none of which were a prize, and the impression, as published in the newspaper advertisements, that there would be only two hundred thousand tickets sold; whereas it afterwards appeared the number approximated very closely half a million. The defendant pleaded guilty and the court reserved judgment in order to give due consideration to the law in the case.

EXCISE VIOLATIONS.

The following persons were charged with violations of the excise law:—Catharine Skelly, corner Eignty-eighth street and Fourth avenue, fined \$30; Edward Walters, No. 127 Roosevelt street, acquitted; and Fred. Trouse, No. 189 Grand street, discharged.

COURT CALENDAR-THIS DAY.

SUPREME COURT—CRECUIT.—Part I.—Oyer and Terminer continued. Part II.—Nos. 1,332, 1,262, 1,398, 1,404, 1,426, 1,432, 1,434, 1,443, 1,440, 1,442, 1,444, 1,446, 1,448, 1,450, 1,452, 1,454, 1,456, 1,458, 1,460, 1,462, Part III.—Nos. 271, 938, 138, 282, 1,099, 863, 625, 890, 1,148, 1,156, 399, 1,168, 435, 685, 2,754, 387, 247, 653, 972, 246.

BROOKLYN LAW COURTS.

The People vs. John Walsh.—John Walsh, the defendant in this action, was charged with stealing the sum of \$1,100 from Philip H. Farley, in the month of Novem-\$1,100 from Philip H. Farley, in the month of November, 1866. They were engaged in drinking together on the night previous to the robbery. Farley drank until he became intoxicated and then went to bed, taking his money with him, Walsh having previously gone out. But it is alleged by the defendant that he subsequently returned, and, divesting himself of his shoes, stote noiselessly into Farley's sleeping apartment and carried off the money. A woman testified to having seen him enter the room at three o'clock on the morning of the robbery. The jury rendered a verdict of guilty.

SUPRIME COUNT—GENERAL TERM—CALENDAR FOR TODAY.—Nos 21, 22, 23, 26, 27, 28, 30, 33, 37, 17, 39, 41, 42, 44, 46, 48, 49, 51, 13, 32.

delivered at the Cooper Institute, by Protessor Louis Agassiz, came off last evening in the presence of a large

member of the Association for the Advancement of Sci-ence and Art read a criticism, which appeared in one of the evening papers, in reference to reserving seats for "sensol children banishing their elders to remote por-tions of the ball." The gentleman made an explanation

the evenling papers, in reference to reserving seate for "senoot children bankheing their eiders to remote portions of the ball." The gentleman made an explanation which was received by the audience as satisfactory.

Dr. Gracom introduced Professor Agassiz, who proceeded to say that he omitted to state in his last lecture that the valley of the Amazon was easily accessible, for his many processor of the theory of the Amazon was easily accessible, for his many processor of the contemphisted commercial interesting for these specially in the valley of the Amazon, that all the Brazil especially in the valley of the Amazon, that all the Brazil especially in the valley of the Amazon, that all the Brazil especially in the valley of the Amazon, that all the Brazil especially in the bands of European nations. He would first call their attention to the summits of the Alpa and then gradually invite them to travel over those regions over which he glaciers themselves moved, and perhaps they would see that where the tropical sun shone to day, there was at one time a field of ice extending over the valley of the Amazon extending towards the Atlantic and perhaps covering the sea to such an extent that the question might well be asked, as it was now asked at the Polar region, whether there was open water under the equator? So far, he believed, did the evidence og, and so extensive, he was satisfied, had the changes of temperature upon the surface of our globe been. What are glaciers? An accumulation of snow and ice gradually passing from a more snowy condition into a more ley condition, and in the process of this change descending from the heights where snow falls into the region where the snow and ice met every summer. In their appearance they present unusual beauty. We had no glacier raisons on the castern side of this combination of the formation of glaciers and the glaciers of the Augas. The interest of the southern extremity of South America, varying in height. The fecture proceeded at length to give a description of the f

THE MARKETS OF NEW YORK.

Detailed Description of Each—How They are Munaged and How They Look—General De-cline in the Business of Most of the Mur-kets—Causes and Consequences, &c. Though able to boast of many admirable institutions

York, with even moderate pretensions to space, cleanli-ness and exterior finish, will be apparent to any one who may undertake the task of wading through the adhesive mud of Washington, of discovering the meat in Fulton, or of defining the possible uses for the nondescript aggrethat reformation is needed in the markets themselves: we also require a change in the system whereby the management of this lucrative branch of the corporation property is intrusted to the charge of irresponsible men vice in their time, are yet not presumed to be quite as efficient in the interests of the public. At present the revenues of the markets are invested in the Sinking Fund for the extinguishment of the city debt. The Commissioners of this fund comprise the Mayor, Comptroiler, Recorder, City Chamberlain, and the Chairman of the Finance Committee of each Board of the City Council. The Bureau of Markets is presided over by a Superintendent, who occupies a department in the Comptroller's office. This gentleman, it would be only natural to suppose, knew more about the machinery by which the market system is regulated than any other He may possibly refer you to the clerks of the markets, with the intimation that even they have been already so primitive courtesy in volunteering information. The subordinates take pains not to be outdone in reticence

dred per cent. Of the amount quoted for last year, Washington Market, including wholesale and rotal, furnished a little more than one-half; but this, of all the markets, shows no perceptible decline in its usual business.

The largest and most widely known of the series of markets in the city rives like a huge, inishapen wigwam from the mid entested by Futton, Vesay and West streets. Its location is generally discovered by a deadlock among the drays and carts in the adjoining streets, by the prevalence of much liquid sizes having the eidenkanks and the feet of pedestrians doomed to travel in the heighborhood, and by the presence of every conceivable obstruction on the harrow pavements. After wrigging under and around horses heads, carefully preserving the equilibrium on the dangerous edge of a pyramid of cups and saucer, the visitor at length comes in view of an antiquated and menogracus looking reflective which seems and its constitute to the largest of the control of the interior are sumerous enough; but to distinguish an entrance from an egg stand forms the next difficulty in his progress. However, when the visitor, after venting many anathemse on the mad, the many in the progress. However, when the visitor, after venting many anathemse on the mad, the many in the progress. However, when the visitor, after venting many anathemse on the mad, the market is appealed, and the rempting rows of gashed and tinted mutton, the raddy toins of beef and the freship plucked gobblers look twice as a beautiful dangling from a medices array of savage hooks. The butchers, in immacuiste apron, with seek and smiling faces, are bustling about with ceaseless activity, wielding their ever busy eleasers with profit and proficiency, dealing chaff among themselves and occasionally throwing in a joke with a customer's becistest. The butchers continue arriving from two clock till six in the morning. At that hour business culminates, and gradually slackness of this theory and the remaining of departing, though, at might of course, but

proaches. The universal sentiment of the market is in favor of putting up an iron structure, two stories high, the upper floor to be devoted to country produce and the lower one to butchers' stalls. By erecting such a market in sections around the present one, the business now going on need not be interfered with, and thus the bug-bear of disarranging and destroying the trade of the market be got rid of.

WEST WASHINGTON MARKET

pensary and police station, and the basement by liquor dealers and others

CENTRE MARKET,

no longer central, is a long, antiquated structure, of a dingy, dilapidated appearance, extending from Broome street to Grand. It has divers dirty entrances and approaches, and presents, on the whole, a look of neglect and decay. It is extremely long, accommodating one hundred and seven stands, twenty-live of which are for butcher's meat, and the rest for poultry, fish, butter, tripes, pickles and the inevitable cysters. This market has suffered a good deal from the migration up town of families who tormerly lived in the neighborhood. The establishment of meat shops at the corners of most uptown streets has tended also to injure the prospects of this, as well as of all the other markets. Stands rent at from \$2\$ to \$3 per week. They are kept ordinarily clean, but a carls blanche seems to be given to the discretion of the floor awsepers.

Sr. Patrick's Dat—Exigers or Sr. Patrick.—The Knights of St. Patrick have made arrangements for their annual dinner on Monday, the 18th of March, at the Maison Dorce, the anniversary of the Patron Saint of

Farmers' Club took piace yesterday, at half-past one in the afternoon, and was largely attended. At the recomthe afternoon, and was largely attended. At the recommendation of the committee appointed to examine and report upon a patent horse rake, which had been brought to the notice of the Club, it was resolved to afford an opportunity for a practical trial to this and any either instruments intended to facilitate the stowage of hay, on the first of March next, at half-past ten A. M., at the farm of Mr. Josiah Macy, near Rye. Subsequently this was made a day for the general trial of new agricultural machinery. Inventions for protecting the expeditious and economical manufacture of bricks, a horse power and a corn sheller were exhibited and commented on. A letter from Delaware reported the prospect of a good peach crop next season.

OFFICIAL INSPECTION OF PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS.—The legis-

days out was compelled to put into Queenstown in dis-tress. On her arrival here the passengers presented Captain Spencer with a service of plate, as a token of their appreciation of his seamanlike conduct, and or the untiring attention and kindness he evinced during their rough and tedious voyage.